



Water Quality Technical Forum Report

Chlorine Residual and Coliform Data from September 2005

There were no positive coliform samples in purveyor areas during November 2005. Average chlorine residual concentrations in the purveyor distribution systems ranged from 0.2 to 1.1 mg/L, with an overall average of 0.75 mg/L. The target chlorine residual at the Tolt Treatment facility is 1.5 mg/L and the Cedar target residual is 1.4 mg/L. The average chlorine residual for the Tolt and Cedar areas has increased slightly in November. It has been a very good year so far for distribution system bacteriological water quality. There have been only three positive coliform samples in the wholesale customer's services areas combined, and only six positive coliform samples in Seattle.

Taste and Odor

The taste and odor panel is meeting every other week. Samples are rated on a scale from 1 to 9, with 1 representing the best and 9 representing the worst. The taste and odor flavor rating assessment (FRA) for the Cedar supply (Lake Youngs treated) samples in November were 1.8 and 2.1 and they were described as slightly chlorinous. The two Tolt supply results were 1.5 and 1.3 with a chlorinous taste. If you would like to receive a weekly update of the taste and odor panel results, please e-mail Moya Joubert at moya.joubert@seattle.gov.



Water Supply Outlook

Our water supply situation and outlook are good. Over the last 7 days 1.5 inches of precipitation were recorded in our Cedar River watershed, and 2.4 inches in the S. F. Tolt. Snowpack accumulations have started relatively early in the season, with approximately 4.6 inches of snow water equivalent being measured in the Cedar, and 7.4 inches in the S.F. Tolt.

Regulated streamflows in both the S.F. Tolt and Cedar rivers downstream of our reservoirs are being held above guaranteed normal levels for this time of the year. The winter season flood pocket has been reestablished in Chester Morse Lake Reservoir. Chester Morse Lake is at elevation 1547.6 feet, down approximately 1.1 feet from last week, and about 2.9 feet below its long-term average (based on the years 1989 to 2004). The South Fork Tolt Reservoir is at elevation 1747.2 feet, up about 0.3 feet from last week, and 2.9 feet below its long-term average.

Water consumption for the 7-day period last week averaged approximately 107 mgd. That is less than the 117 mgd consumed during the same period last year, and less than the average of 124 mgd used during the same period over the years 1994-2000.

Lead and Copper

As of November 30th, 406 samples have been submitted and analyzed. There have been only 11 samples that have exceeded the lead action level, 2 in Seattle, 5 in Bellevue, and 4 in the Tolt purveyor area. Each of the four regions will meet the action level again. Each of the four regions should be going to reduced monitoring, which means each participating utility will take half the number of samples, with a minimum of three. It is likely that the next sampling round will occur in the Spring 2006. We will be notifying participants as soon as more information is available. Results for Fall 2006 will be mailed to purveyors the week of December 5th. Each participating utility is responsible for sending the results to the customers who participated. SPU is responsible for sending the results to the state.

SPU Contact: Wylie Harper, 206 684-7880 or Lynn Kirby, 206 684-0216.

Conservation Technical Forum

On the web at <http://www.savingwater.org>
Wholesale Customers Commercial Conservation Brochure

A new brochure for businesses that lists environmental services and incentives, including water conservation programs is awaiting input from wholesale customers (WSC). Based on a newly completed brochure for Seattle Public Utility business customers, WSC are being asked to supply photos and case studies that can be used to create a Saving Water Partnership version. These items should be sent to Cornell Arraya, (206) 386-1170, Cornell.Amaya@Seattle.gov. Debbie Rannfeldt of Woodinville is also helping with coordinating this effort.

YOUTH EDUCATION

New Tracking System for Waterbusters Game

New software has been created to track users playing the popular Waterbusters Game. For the

first time, it is possible to track users and their responses to embedded conservation questions in the game's four levels. This helps in tracking user number, frequency and understanding of its conservation messages, tools and devices. Results so far indicate that there is an increase in user knowledge of conservation as a result of their interaction with the game.

RESIDENTIAL INDOOR

WashWise Adjusts to Changing Market

The WashWise Clothes washer rebate program will ratchet-up the criteria for rebate eligibility next year. Starting in January, the current One Star machines (\$25 rebate) will no longer be rebate-eligible. Current Two Star machines (\$50 rebate) will be eligible for the One Star \$25 rebates. The new Two Star machines (\$50 rebate) will be splintered from the current Three Star (\$100 rebate) machines. These new Two Star machines are very energy-efficient but have medium water efficiency. The Three Star rebates of \$100 will then only consist of machines that are extremely energy and water efficient. It is projected that about 10% of rebates next year will be One Star, 5% Two Star, and 80% Three Star. Program costs will continue to be shared with Seattle City Light, in their service territory.

Multifamily Toilet Rebates Gaining Momentum

As the December 31st deadline approaches, there is an increasing number of customers completing their apartment and condominium toilet replacement projects. A letter was recently mailed to previous applicants, reminding them of the deadline. By year-end the program is on track to rebate 3,700 - 4,000 toilets in 2005 in over 225 buildings. Over 375 buildings have applied to the program since the FREE toilet option was rolled-out last December ---- over one building per day.

SHOWERHEAD AND AERATOR REPLACEMENT PILOT II

The second showerhead and aerator replacement program pilot is in full swing. This pilot program

is taking place in Water District 119 (WD119), and is different from the initial pilot launched in Highline Water District. We have identified some of the customer barriers for participants and have addressed them in the second pilot. We also have Puget Sound Energy (PSE) on board as a partner in the second pilot. Direct mail brochures went to 1160 WD119 customers, and to date we have received 168 requests for fixtures, with more still coming in. The information we collect from both pilots will help determine the effectiveness of a regional program. Evaluation information will be forth- coming. Thank you Highline Water District and WD119 for your support.

RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE

Woodinville Landscape Assessments Completed

This past spring, Woodinville Water District (WWD) worked with Seattle Public Utilities staff to pilot landscape assessments that were funded by SWP and managed by Woodinville staff. Highly experienced consultants were selected to execute the assessments and provide a report describing the pilot and its findings. WWD targeted high peak water users who had automatic irrigation systems as candidates with the greatest potential for residential, peak water savings. The program was designed to promote SWP's sprinkler rebates, provide customers with tailored landscape recommendations and make a one-on-one connection with homeowners. Thirty-six customers participated and gave high marks to the consultants and WWD in post-assessment surveys. The consultants also found notable potential savings if customers acted upon the tailored recommendations they received. However, to date, none of these customers have sent in a rebate application for sprinkler retrofits. In addition, the consultant cost per assessment proved to very high. WWD and SPU staff are looking at alternative strategies that leverage partnerships in the landscape and irrigation industry and further support conservation outreach that is being done by WWD.

Irrigation Training Opportunities

In December, public agencies within the SWP service territory may qualify for a 50% discount on the cost of training and testing for the Irrigation Association's Certified Irrigation Contractor or the Irrigation Water Management Society's Certified Site Water Planner. Half the cost will be refunded to the public agency for each completed certification. The trainings and certifications will be open to any landscape and irrigation contractor, but only public agency staff within the SWP service territory qualifies for the refund.

COMMERCIAL

Ongoing Commercial Projects in SWP Area

As a reminder to all there are two really good water saving programs ongoing in your territory. First is the Commercial Washer Replacement Program. With the help of our partner Puget Sound Energy (PSE) SWP is offering incentives to Laundromats that replace old inefficient washing machines with new efficient ones. Laundromat owners can expect \$300. from SWP and \$200. from PSE per machine. The list of qualifying machines can be found at; <http://cee1.org/>.

The second program is Commercial Toilet Replacement. Businesses can replace their old pre-1994 toilets with new water saving toilets. Business owners can choose either an \$80. rebate option or a free toilet option. Those wanting to participate can look at the "FlushStar" list posted at www.savingwater.org for toilets that best fit their business needs. If you know of any business owners that would like to participate in either program please contact Arece Hampton (206) 706-7464.

To learn more about conservation, please visit www.savingwater.org.

Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfectant Byproduct Rules

A Workshop for Municipal Water Providers

January 25, 2006

9:30am – 1:30pm

Mercer Island Council Chambers

9611 SE 36th Street – Mercer Island, WA

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will soon finalize the latest regulation on disinfection byproducts (DBPs). Drinking water utilities play a central role in protecting public health by treating and disinfecting drinking water. Please join us in a workshop that will focus on the impact of the latest regulations and how regional utility managers / policy makers can factor these changes into their operations and long-term planning.

Mediator:

Melinda Friedman with HDR/EES will present.

Workshop Topics include:

- Compliance Options for IDSE (System Specific Study or Standard Monitoring Program)
- Writing Your IDSE Monitoring Plan or System Specific Study
- Sampling Locations/Parameters/Frequency/Numbers of Samples
- Reporting Requirements
- Stage 2 Schedule and Deadlines
- Regional Responsibilities and Coordination
- Role of the Regulators (EPA and WDOH)
- Long Term Monitoring Requirements
- Communications
- Costs
- Q&A

Registration:

To register please call or e-mail Erin Lahti, (206) 233-2571, Erin.Lahti@Seattle.gov.

There is no charge for attendance, but please register in advance. Lunch will be provided. Directions are available upon request.

Sponsored by:

Seattle Public Utilities and HDR/EES.